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a hollow, substantially cylindrical-shaped, elongated housing having a generally smooth cylindrical outer surface and having an open end and a closed end;

5 one of said ends having a flange lying in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said housing; and

an interior surface of said housing having a portion thereof provided with a plurality of annular inwardly projecting spaced apart projections.

42. An insert which is embedded in a cast member for force-fittingly receiving a leg portion of a step, said insert being comprised of:

a hollow, substantially cylindrical-shaped, elongated housing having a generally smooth cylindrical outer surface and having an open end and a closed end;

5 one of said ends having a flange lying in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said housing; and

said outer surface being provided with a plurality of annular flanges integral with and extending radially outward from said housing and spaced along the housing.

43. The insert of claim 41 further comprising:

said outer surface being provided with a plurality of annular flanges integral with and extending radially outward from said housing and spaced along the housing.

44. The insert of claim 41 wherein said closed end has at least a portion of its exterior surface being inclined relative to said longitudinal axis.--

Kindly amend the claims 21 and 25 as follows:

21. (Twice Amended) An insert adapted to be embedded in a cast member for force-fittingly receiving a leg portion of a step, said insert being comprised of:

a hollow, substantially cylindrical-shaped elongated housing having an open end and a closed end;

one of said ends and having a flange lying in a plane diagonally aligned with a longitudinal axis of said housing;

another one of said ends having a flange lying in a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

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10 an interior surface of said housing having a portion thereof being provided with a plurality [arranged at intervals and] of annular projections arranged at spaced intervals and extending radially inward;

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each projection having a tapering cross-section defined by a first surface diagonally aligned with (and) longitudinal axis and facing the open end and a second surface perpendicular to said closed end.

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25. (Twice Amended) The insert of claim 21 wherein said closed end has an annular flange integral with said housing and extending radially outward therefrom to seal [in] an opening in a mold core preparatory to insertion of the insert into a cast material.